

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for preventing wear on the strings of an electric guitar, of the type having string apertures in the electric guitar through which the strings pass, said device, comprising:

5 a tubular sleeve that defines a central conduit, said tubular sleeve having a neck section sized to fit within the string aperture of the electric guitar, and a head section that is sized to be too large to pass through the string aperture, wherein said string aperture
10 is sized to enable a guitar string to pass therethrough.

2. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said conduit expands within said head section, thereby creating a curved interior surface.

3. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said tubular sleeve is comprised of a synthetic material.

4. The device according to Claim 3, wherein said synthetic material is selected from a group consisting of Teflon, Kevlar and Syrlin.

5. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said tubular sleeve is comprised of a soft metal selected from a group consisting of brass, bronze, tin alloys, aluminum, and aluminum alloys.

6. A method of reducing wear and stress on a guitar string in an electric guitar, of the type having string apertures through which the guitar strings pass, said method comprising the steps of:

placing tubular sleeves within each of the string apertures in the electric guitar;

advancing the guitar strings through the tubular sleeves while stringing the guitar, wherein each of the guitar strings is biased against a tubular sleeve when the guitar is strung.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein each tubular sleeve has a neck section that fits within the string aperture of the electric guitar, and a head section that is too large to pass through the string aperture.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said tubular sleeve defines a conduit and said conduit expands

within said head section, thereby creating a curved interior surface against which the guitar string bends when the guitar is strung.

9. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said tubular sleeve is comprised of a synthetic material.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein said synthetic material is selected from a group consisting of Teflon, Kevlar and Syrlin.

11. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said tubular sleeve is comprised of a soft metal selected from a group consisting of brass, bronze, tin alloys, aluminum, and aluminum alloys.

12. A guitar, comprising:

- a body defining string apertures;
- a neck extending from said body;
- tuning mechanisms supported by said neck;
- replaceable tubular sleeves placed within said apertures;
- strings extending through said tubular sleeves to said tuning mechanisms, wherein said tuning

mechanisms cause said strings to bend about and contact said tubular sleeves.

13. The guitar according to Claim 12, wherein each of said tubular sleeves has a neck section sized to fit within one of said string apertures and a head section that is sized to be too large to pass through that string aperture.

14. The guitar according to Claim 13, wherein each of said tubular sleeves defines a conduit through which one of the guitar strings pass, wherein each said conduit expands within said head section, thereby creating a curved interior surface against which the guitar string is biased by one of said tuning mechanisms.

15. The guitar according to Claim 12, wherein each of said tubular sleeves is comprised of a synthetic material.

16. The device according to Claim 12, wherein said synthetic material is selected from a group consisting of Teflon, Kevlar and Syrlin.

17. The device according to Claim 12, wherein each of said tubular sleeves is comprised of a material that is softer than that of said guitar strings.